

Official Count
Of Storm’s Toll
Appears Short

Puerto Rico’s Statistics
May Be Off by 1,000

This article is by **Frances Robles, Kenan Davis, Sheri Fink and Sarah Almukhtar.**

Homes were flattened. Power was knocked out. Hospitals barely functioned. Even so, after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, the government reported a relatively low death toll.

Now, a review by The New York Times of daily mortality data from Puerto Rico’s vital statistics bureau indicates a significantly higher number of deaths after the hurricane than the government there has acknowledged.

The Times’s analysis found that in the 42 days after Hurricane Maria made landfall on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm, 1,052 more people than usual died. The analysis compared the number of deaths for each day in 2017 with the average of the number of deaths for the same days in 2015 and 2016.

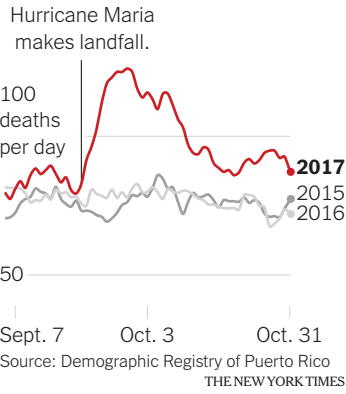
Officially, just 62 people died as a result of the storm, which ravaged the island with winds of nearly 150 miles an hour, cutting off power to 3.4 million Puerto Ricans. The four most recent fatalities were added to the death toll on Dec. 2.

“Before the hurricane, I had an average of 82 deaths daily,” Wanda Llovet, the director of the Demographic Registry in Puerto Rico, said in a mid-November interview. “That changes from Sept. 20 to 30th. Now I have an average of 118 deaths daily.”

Since then, she said on Thursday, both figures have increased by one.

Data for October are not yet complete, and the number of deaths recorded in that month is expected to rise. Record-keeping

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Source: Demographic Registry of Puerto Rico
THE NEW YORK TIMES



ABBAS MOMANI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Fallout in the Middle East
Israeli soldiers removed a Palestinian flag Friday in the West Bank. Protests erupted over the U.S. decision on Jerusalem. Page A6.

Claims Emerge
And Legislator
Quits Instantly

By **KATIE ROGERS**

WASHINGTON — Representative Trent Franks announced Friday that he would resign from Congress immediately after accusations emerged that he had offered \$5 million to a female employee to be a surrogate mother for his children, and that she and another female employee worried that the lawmaker wanted to have sex as a means of impregnating them.

Mr. Franks, Republican of Arizona and one of the House’s most ardent social conservatives, had said Thursday that he would leave the House in January, and he admitted that he had discussed surrogate pregnancies with two employees. The House Ethics Committee had opened an investigation into his behavior, and the office of Speaker Paul D. Ryan said in a statement that Mr. Ryan

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For Lobbyists, Harassment Accompanies Access

By **TRIP GABRIEL and JULIE BOSMAN**

Vanessa Alarid was a lobbyist in New Mexico when she asked a lawmaker over drinks one night if she could count on his support for a bill that appeared to be coming down to a single vote.

“You can have my vote if you have sex with me,” Ms. Alarid recalled the lawmaker saying, although he used cruder language for sexual intercourse. He told Ms. Alarid she had the same first name as his wife, so he would not get confused if he called out in bed. Then he kissed Ms. Alarid on the lips, she said.

Shocked, Ms. Alarid, who was 32 at the time, pushed him away. Only after he was gone did she let the tears flow.

When her bill came up on the floor of the New Mexico House of Representatives the next day, March 20, 2009, it failed by a single vote, including a “No” by the lawmaker, Representative Thomas A. Garcia.

As Ms. Alarid watched from the House gallery, she said, Mr. Garcia blew her a kiss and shrugged his shoulders with arms spread.

Charges of harassment are cascading through statehouses across the country, leading to investigations, resignations of powerful men and anguish over hostile workplaces for women that for years went unacknowledged. Amid this reckoning, one group of victims has stood apart: political lobbyists.

Part of a frequently disparaged profession, female lobbyists have

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JULIO CORTEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Window to Winter
Eden, 3, left, and Josiah Allen, 8, on Friday in Brandon, Miss. Snow fell in several Southern states.

As Smog Chokes India, Critics Ask if Modi’s Policies Harm the Air

This article is by **Jeffrey Gettleman, Kai Schultz and Hari Kumar.**

NEW DELHI — As millions of Indians watched a televised cricket match this week between the national teams of India and Sri Lanka, the game suddenly stopped.

The pollution in New Delhi is especially bad right now, and one of the Sri Lankan players could barely breathe. He leaned over, put his hands on his knees and started throwing up on live television.

The Sri Lankan cricketers were clearly not ready for New Delhi’s foul air, which this week contained 22 times the level of hazardous particles that the World Health Organization considers acceptable. It was an embarrassing moment for India, and the National Green Tribunal, India’s environmental court, chastised the local government for even holding the match.

“Every newspaper has been carrying headlines that the air pollution was going to be higher this week. Still you took no action. Even the players were playing the match wearing masks,” the court said. “Are the people of Delhi supposed to be breathing this air?”

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INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Debate on the Lord’s Prayer

Pope Francis is pondering a new interpretation of the Lord’s Prayer. “Lead us not into temptation” is not quite right, he said. “Do not let us fall into temptation” might be more precise. PAGE A4

A Cleareyed Fight for Justice

Blinded by her husband, a woman flees Bangladesh and earns a law degree in Canada. Saturday Profile. PAGE A5

NATIONAL A9-15

Scrutiny of Fetal Tissue Use

The Justice Department may be looking into how groups like Planned Parenthood handle fetal tissue. PAGE A10

Warnings on Russian Outreach

F.B.I. agents met in February with one of the president’s top advisers to urge caution about Russian emails. PAGE A12

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The Brooklyn Bridge Shuffle

The elevated promenade of the iconic bridge is clogged with tourists, vendors and commuters. The city is taking steps to relieve congestion. PAGE A16

BUSINESS DAY B1-6

A War Waged by Motorbike

In Indonesia’s traffic-plagued capital, a start-up is challenging Uber by making it easier to get around — or not to have to in the first place. PAGE B1

SPORTSSATURDAY D1-5

Angels Win Big, in Off-Season

Shohei Ohtani, the 23-year-old Japanese star who can pitch and hit, has chosen to play for the Angels, over six other teams that were finalists in the sweepstakes to sign him. PAGE D1

ARTS C1-8

Amy Sedaris Brings You Home

In her TruTV series, a surreal and affectionate sendup of TV home shows, the actress shows off her comic versatility, writes James Poniewozik. PAGE C1

THIS WEEKEND



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Bret Stephens PAGE A19

